

SARKAR LAKE

Sarkar Lake is located on Prince of Wales Island, and drains into El Capitan Passage. The lake is 720 acres with a watershed of 31,174 acres. There are 6 inlets to this lake with a normal summer flow of 100 cubic feet per second. The normal summer flow of the outlet is 110 cubic feet per second. On the higher tides, salt water flows into the lake and will raise the level of the lake as much as 2 feet. Because of this it is very possible that the lower levels of the lake are saline. The maximum depth is approximately 50 feet and the average is approximately 20 feet. The bottom is rock, sand, and mud. This area had a cannery located near the outlet in Sarkar Cove. This cannery was abandoned before 1951 and catch records seem to be unobtainable. The fishery of this area reduced the red salmon population to a great extent.

The fish population in this lake consists of pink, coho, chum, red salmon, cutthroat, steelhead, and dolly varden, cohooids, and stickleback. The plant life in this lake consists mainly of Nuphar and Vallisneria.

Sarkar Lake. This lake is on the northern portion of Prince of Wales Island near the south end of El Capitan Pass. It is quite low being only about 4 M. elevation. The surface measures 295 ha. It lies 119 km from Ketchikan bearing 304 degrees True. The watershed measures 12,620 ha and is about 60% timbered with many muskeg areas and peaks at 560 M. The outlet at normal summer flow is 3,110 lps. and flows into El Capitan Pass at Deweyville (abandoned cannery). Aquatic vegetation was common in the shallows consisting of nuphar, vallisnaria and potamogeton. The water color is clear but with considerable muskeg stain. Spawning grounds are excellent in the inlets. The lake hosts sockeye, silver, pink and chum salmon, cutthroat, rainbow, dolly varden and steelhead trout, cottoids and stickleback. Access is almost entirely by float plane but it is a short walk, .5 km from the head of Sarkar Cove.

103-90-010